

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0516

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

BRIDGETOWN FOR ARNOLD, AIFLD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, GY, XL
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON CARIBBEAN REGIONAL LABOR PROGRAM FY 77-78

REF: (A) 76 GEORGETOWN 2614, (B) GEORGETOWN 0149

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH GUYANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC) HAS
DECIDED TO TERMINATE ASSISTANCE FROM AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD), EMBASSY RECOMMENDS US OFFER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARRANGED EITHER DIRECTLY BY DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR OR ON UNION TO UNION BASIS IN EFFORT TO EXERT INFLUENCE
ON DIRECTION OF TUC AND REINFORCE TUC'S TRADITIONAL CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH WESTERN LABOR MOVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF A DECISION OF TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)
THAT IT NO LONGER DESIRES ASSISTANCE FROM AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD), AIFLD ACTIVITIES HERE
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WILL CEASE APRIL 1, 1977. TUC LEADERSHIP IS STRONGLY PRO-
GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY SUCCUMBED TO GOG PRESSURE TO CUT
ASSOCIATION WITH AIFLD FOR POLITICAL REASONS. NEVERTHELESS,
MANY TUC LEADERS AND RANK AND FILE ARE NEITHER NOSITLE TO
US LABOR MOVEMENT NOR TO TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE
UNION VALUES. THROUGH MEANS OTHER THAN AIFLD, US SHOULD
CONTINUE TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE DIRECTION OF TUC.

2. AS PART OF GUYANESE THRUST TOWARDS SOCIALISM, TUC HAS
SOUGHT TO BROADEN CONTACTS WITH SOCIALIST LABOR MOVEMENT,

BUT IT WANTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH ITS TRADITIONAL WESTERN FRIENDS. ALTHOUGH TUC APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING CUBAN LINE IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CARIBBEAN LABOR MOVEMENT (REF A), THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO FORMAL DISCUSSION WITHIN TUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO BREAK AFFILIATION WITH EITHER CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOR (CCL) OR INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU). NEITHER TUC NOR GOG HAS LAUNCHED AN IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CCL AND ITS CONCEPTS OF TRADE UNIONISM, BUT THIS IS POSSIBILITY FOR FUTURE. EMBASSY FEELS AIFLD PROGRAM GOAL OF ASSISTING CCL TO MAINTAIN VIABLE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS REALISTIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE GUYANA TUC IS ONLY MAJOR VOICE CRITICAL OF PRESENT STRUCTURE OF CCL.

3. CLEARLY TUC IS AT CROSSROADS: GOG HAS BEEN EXERTING PRESSURE ON ORGANIZATION TO ABANDON ADVERSARY CONCEPT OF WORKER/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND ADOPT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIALIST APPROACH, BUT SOME TUC LEADERS RETAIN PREFERENCE FOR TRADITIONAL ROLE OR ARE AT LEAST SKEPTICAL ABOUT HOW THEY CAN SERVE WORKERS WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF SOCIALIST ORIENTATION (REF B), OVER PAST TWO MONTHS A FACTION WITHIN TUC COMPOSED OF FOUR UNIONS HAS BEEN PUSHING LEADERSHIP TO TAKE MORE CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENT, MAKE INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROPOSE OWN SOCIAL PROGRAM. THE EMERGENCE OF THIS GROUP INDICATES THAT THERE IS ORGANIZED OPPOSITION WITHIN TUC WHICH DOES NOT WANT

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TO SEE TUC CO-OPTED BY GOVERNMENT. THIS GROUP IS COMPOSED OF BOTH MODERATES AND LEFTIST ELEMENTS. IF US-GUYANESE RELATIONS IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY IN NEAR FUTURE AND/OR IF TUC GAINS LATITUDE FOR MORE INDEPENDENT COURSE, TUC MIGHT AGAIN BE INTERESTED IN AIFLD PROGRAM PROMOTING SELF-HELP SOCIAL PROJECTS.

4. FOR PRESENT, EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT CONCENTRATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TECHNIQUES, WORKER PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY, ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES, PROFIT-SHARING, AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OFFERED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR ON A UNION TO UNION BASIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PROMOTING PREFERENCE OF SOME TUC LEADERS FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM AND INSTITUTIONAL INDEPENDENCE. MANY TRADE UNION LEADERS AND RANK AND FILE MEMBERS MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH US LABOR MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AFL-CIO.

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